

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed February 4, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-7 have been amended. Claims 1-7 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed February 4, 2004, claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,119,000 (Stephenson) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,374,112 (Widegren).

Claims 1-7 have been amended to effect minor editorial corrections to the claims. These claims reflect the version of the claims which were submitted with a Response to the Written Opinion on November 4, 2001. This version of the claims was used as the basis of the International Preliminary Examination Report in the International Stage of the present application.

Before discussing the cited prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of that art, a brief summary of the present invention is appropriate. The present invention relates to a signaling method in third generation cellular systems during a change in state of a mobile station. According to the invention, if a state change is required to a state in which the forward access channel (FACH) is monitored, a controlling radio network controller allocates a temporary mobile station identifier for a mobile station and indicates the temporary mobile station identifier to the mobile station.

Independent claim 1 recites that a mobile station has at least the following states: a first state, where a mobile station listens to paging channel (PCH); a second state, where a mobile station monitors forward access channel (FACH); and a third state, where a dedicated transport channel (DCH) is allocated to a mobile station. Furthermore, independent claim 1

recites the method steps of (1) checking, by the network, if a state change to the second state is needed for a mobile station, (2) allocating, by a controlling radio network controller, a temporary mobile station identifier for the mobile station if it is determined that the change to the second state is needed, and (3) and indicating the temporary mobile station identifier to said mobile station. Independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the step of allocating is performed if it is determined that the change to the second state is needed. Support for this amendment is found in the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 6-8.

Stephenson discloses a method and apparatus for tracking identity-code changes in a communication system. Stephenson discloses monitoring a signaling subsystem for messages and extracting the identity code from the message (see col. 2, lines 10-21 of Stephenson). The Examiner states that col. 7, lines 33-45 of Stephenson discloses that step of checking to see if a state change is needed. This portion of Stephenson refers to a location change of the mobile station. However, this section of Stephenson does not disclose the specific limitation which requires checking if a change to the second state is required, the second state being a state where a mobile station monitors forward access channel (FACH). Stephenson also fails to disclose the step of allocating, by a controlling radio network controller, a temporary mobile station identifier for the mobile station. In contrast, Stephenson discloses that the identification of a mobile terminal is determined by monitoring a message. Stephenson fails to disclose, teach or suggest an allocation in response to the determination of requiring a change to the second state, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Widegren merely discloses a Universal Mobile Telephone System (UMTS) and does not disclose the specific steps recited in amended independent claim 1. The Examiner merely uses Widegren to disclose the Radio Network Controller.

Dependent claims 2-7, being dependent on independent claim 1, are deemed allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 1.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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